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Britain backs France on Palestinians

AMMAN, March 4 (R) — Britain today publicly backed a French Palestinian self-determination within the framework of a negotiated settlement. A foreign office spokesman said that a joint communiqué issued after French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Kuwait yesterday was "in line with our views which we have been discussing with our Arab (Community) partners." The spokesman said: "Any settlement must recognise that the Palestinians have the right to self-determination within the framework of a negotiated settlement." Britain and France have used the term "self-determination" in reference to the Palestinian problem, British said. But they added that Britain and other Common countries had already said the Palestinian people were within the framework of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement and their right to determine their own future as a people.

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France to supply Iraq with uranium

PARIS, March 4 (AP) — France will supply Iraq with weapons-grade uranium fuel for its atomic research centre now under construction near Baghdad, the French Atomic Energy Agency said. The fuel, enriched at 90 per cent, will be delivered in the core of the 70 thermal megawatt "Osiris" experimental reactor which Iraq ordered in France in August, 1976. Delivery of the reactor was delayed when unknown saboteurs last April blew up a factory where it was being built. The French are known to have planned to supply Iraq with a new low-enrichment uranium fuel called "caramel," which cannot be converted for weapons manufacture. But Iraq, France's second-largest oil supplier, has consistently refused to accept this 10 per cent enriched fuel and has insisted France hold to its original contract for the 90 per cent enriched uranium. An Atomic Energy Agency official maintained that there was "nothing new" about the decision to supply the enriched fuel to Iraq, as it was part of the original contract.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

King decries inadequacy of Camp David approach

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that the approach of the Camp David accords is inadequate while it is working on creating new realities in the occupied territories.

King added that Jordan will continue its efforts to attain a comprehensive peace to which the region aspires. He said during a press symposium with leading French officials that the Camp David accords have not led to genuine peace in the Middle East.

King added that it is not possible that Jordan will join this search for a just and durable peace under the supervision of the U.N. and with the participation of the concerned parties.

King said the international community should define clearly the nature of the just and comprehensive peace which should be in the region, King Hussein said.

King said in the statement, which was broadcast on Radio Jordan on Sunday that Middle East peace efforts should not be based on the U.S., Egypt and Israel, outside the U.N. framework, all parties should take part.

King affirmed that the region faces a true threat unless a just and just peace is established which takes the national rights of the Palestinian people in their land into consideration. King said Jordan agrees that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 should be amended in a way to safeguard the Palestinian rights and to find an integrated framework to the genuine comprehensive peace efforts in the region.

King expressed his belief that Europe will make every effort to take the initiative by utilising all diplomatic possibilities for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Regional Briefs

1. March 4 (AP) — A senior Palestinian commando leader said his movement will do its utmost to overthrow Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for concluding a separate peace with Israel. "We shall do everything we can to bring down this regime. The coming days will show you," said Mr. Salah al-Din al-Sayid, a senior leader of the PLO, in an interview published today by the Lebanese newspaper Al-Naba. Mr. Khalaf (code name Abu Iyad), second in command of the PLO, said he was asked about the PLO's stance on a reported intention by European Common Market states to seek an amendment to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 in an effort to pave the way for an overall Israeli settlement. "The movement will have to see what amendment is introduced," he replied. "You do not buy the sea."

2. March 4 (R) — An Iraqi delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hassan Ali al-Majid today for visits to Australia and New Zealand. The Iraqi News Agency said the delegation would have talks with Australian officials on concluding an economic, trade and technical cooperation agreement. The Iraqi team would discuss a similar agreement with officials in New Zealand to boost bilateral trade.

3. March 4 (AP) — Japanese special Middle East envoy Tetsuo Endo ended a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia today. He left off at Riyadh airport by Saudi Planning Minister Sheikh Nasser. During his visit, he also met with Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and discussed Saudi-Japanese cooperation in the field of energy, Riyadh Radio said.

4. March 4 (R) — Visiting Luxembourg Foreign Minister Thore opened talks today with Kuwaiti leaders on economic and commercial cooperation, the Kuwait News Agency said. Mr. Thore, who arrived last night on a two-day visit, met with Kuwait's prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the acting foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Aziz Hussein.

5. March 4 (R) — The recent Soviet intervention in Afghanistan will again be discussed by Islamic foreign ministers at a conference in Pakistan in April. It said Pakistan had invited foreign ministers of the 42-nation Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) to meet in Islamabad from April 16 to 20. The conference's agenda would also include issues on the Middle East, Cyprus, Muslim minorities in the world, the creation of a nuclear free zone in Africa, the agency said. A regular meeting was held in the Moroccan city of Fez last year. But they met in an extraordinary session in Islamabad in January to discuss the Afghan crisis. They unanimously called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Afghanistan's membership of the organisation was pending.

6. March 4 (R) — A senior Arab oil official said today there would be no question of U.S. military protection for the countries of the area were united in a single state. Dr. Ignace, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), told the Bahrain-based news agency: "Foreign intervention only comes where there are divisions and weakness. If the Arab Gulf was a single, strong state there would be no talk of foreign intervention." Dr. Ignace was in Bahrain on a four-day visit, urged Arab governments to "temporary enthusiasm" for joint economic projects such as the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), based in Bahrain. He said these projects would only work if they were supported by APEC groups Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Algeria, the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, Bahrain and others, of which the first seven are also members of OAPEC. He was suspended for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

7. March 4 (R) — Nefertiti Air, an offshoot of an Egyptian airline company, Nile Valley Aviation, today advertised a weekly flight from Cairo to Tel Aviv from tomorrow. A spokesman said fares for the round trip would be 130 pounds (about \$182) for tourist class and 170 Egyptian pounds (\$230) for first class. Egyptian citizens travelling to Israel would need their passports to the passport office and they would need a "laissez passer" document valid for one trip, the spokesman said. "We are doing it for the benefit of those who want to travel to Arab countries," the spokesman said.

8. March 4 (AP) — President Anwar Sadat conveyed to the U.S. ambassador to Cairo today his "personal concern" over the detention of Egyptian diplomats and other hostages being held by leftist groups in Bogotá. Among the hostages is Egypt's Ambassador to Colombia, Mr. Salah Allouba, 57, a father of two. Mr. Sadat's "personal interest" was relayed to Ambassador Miguel Duran, who was summoned by Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Butrus Ghali. A foreign ministry official said he "asserted that the Colombian government should take responsibility for the safety of the hostages and speeding their release."



Rivers of melting snow (above) presented a new hazard Tuesday after Jordan's unprecedented two-day blizzard. One couple (below) offered this romantic picture against a snowy backdrop in Amman. See details on page 2. (Photos by Youssef 'Allan')



France stresses support for Palestinian rights

DOHA, March 4 (AP) — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing met behind closed doors today with Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, as his aides conferred with their Qatari counterparts.

The official Qatar News Agency

said the closed meeting followed the first round of talks the French president held soon after his arrival here from Bahrain earlier in the day.

Official sources said the talks concentrated on bilateral relations and means of developing coop-

eration between France and Qatar. They also covered the Palestinian problem, Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, a proposed Arab-European dialogue and the state of world economy. Another round of talks was scheduled for tomorrow, the

agency said.

French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet said President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Qatar had come at a "most opportune" time for the strengthening of bilateral relations and discussion of matters of mutual interests.

Mr. Francois-Poncet conferred with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saif Al Thani, reiterating French support to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination "within the framework of a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem," the agency said.

It quoted the French top diplomat as saying the Palestine question was at the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a joint communiqué issued at the end of the president's one-day visit to Bahrain, France and Bahrain called for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and for "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination within the framework of an overall peaceful settlement."

The wording was similar to a communiqué issued Monday following Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Kuwait. That statement represented France's first formal acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

France previously had supported a more vague formulation acknowledging the ill-defined "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people.

As in Kuwait, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing agreed with Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Issa Bin Sulman Khalifa, that the Palestinian problem was a political issue and not just a refugee problem.

Carter, Schmidt meet today

WASHINGTON, March 4 (R) — Western responses to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan will be the main subject of talks between President Carter and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt starting here tomorrow, diplomatic sources said today.

Mr. Schmidt arrives tonight (2400 GMT) for a 36-hour visit.

U.S. and West German officials say there is now broad agreement between the two countries on a western response to the Soviet intervention, despite earlier charges by Bonn that the United States had not consulted its allies enough and that its rhetoric had been overblown.

One subject expected to come up during the Schmidt-Carter talks is a possible increase in the West German army's role in defending Central Europe, a step which could free U.S. forces for use elsewhere.

Diplomatic sources said U.S. leaders would also want to discuss West German logistic support for a planned 100,000-man American military team that could be sent rapidly to third world trouble spots to defend western interests.

Discussion of economic responses to the Afghan intervention will centre on aid to countries in South and West Asia such as Pakistan and Turkey, and on additional western sanctions

should Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan.

Mr. Schmidt objects to the Carter administration's use of the term "punitive reprisals," but he recently indicated possible support for future economic sanctions.

He annoyed Washington last month by putting off a decision on a boycott of the Moscow Olympics until the end of May, three months after the U.S. decision, and that subject is certain to come up.

Other expected topics are western links with Yugoslavia in the post-Tito era and western attempts to improve relations with Gulf region states, particularly Iraq, diplomatic sources said.

It was not clear how much attention would be devoted to British and French proposals calling for a neutral Afghanistan, whose independence would be guaranteed by the great powers as well as countries in the region. The United States has shown some reservations about these proposals.

On the eve of Mr. Schmidt's visit, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance cautioned allies that failure to stand up to the Soviet military intervention would be "shortsighted and dangerous."

Officials said the warning in a speech yesterday in Chicago was aimed at West European public opinion in general, not directly at the West German leader.

Carter's repudiation to cause 'wounded feelings' Vance takes blame for mixup over U.N. settlements decision

WASHINGTON, March 4 (AP) — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance took responsibility today for an appar-

ent mixup over a United Nations resolution that criticises Israel's occupation of Arab Jerusalem.

"The secretary of state accepts responsibility for the failure in communications," his spokesman Mr. Hodding Carter, told reporters.

The U.S. vote for the resolution in the Security Council on Saturday has caused a political and diplomatic furor. Subsequently, on Monday night, President Carter had a statement issued at the White House saying the United States was supposed to abstain unless all references to Jerusalem were deleted.

These instructions were not conveyed properly to U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry, spokesman Carter said. "That failure is one the secretary of state accepts," he said.

Earlier, Mr. McHenry said the mixup would cause "wounded feelings" among the Arabs and

others around the world.

At a news conference, Mr. McHenry denied that U.S. policy on Israeli settlements had shifted, and he left the impression that political pressure caused President Carter to admit a foul-up.

In an unusual clarification statement last night, the president said the United States mistakenly

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) — The prime minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, today received the U.S. ambassador in Amman, Mr. Nicholas Veliotis, and discussed with him the U.S. government's statement on the American vote in favour of the recent Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

voted for the resolution against Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories because of a misunderstanding about exactly what the resolution said.

Specifically, President Carter said the U.S. action stemmed from a faulty belief that references to occupied Jerusalem had been deleted from the resolution before the final vote.

Mr. Carter's statement came amid Israeli complaints that the U.S. vote amounted to a significant policy shift. The president denied that. "I want to make it clear that the vote... does not represent a change in our position regarding the Israeli settlements in the occupied areas," his statement said.

The effect in the Arab World will not be loving," Mr. McHenry told reporters. "They feel very strongly with regard to settlements."

He said it is longstanding U.S. policy that the settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

In occupied Jerusalem today, the Israeli cabinet unanimously rejected the U.N. resolution, with members saying they also were not mollified by President Carter's clarification statement.

"It was not enough," Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir said, adding that Israel had "deep feelings of anxiety, disappointment and dissatisfaction" over the U.S. vote.

A letter from President Carter to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin apologising for the inclusion of occupied Jerusalem in the resolution apparently softened Israeli's reaction, but cabinet ministers said President Carter did not go far enough.

An angry debate reportedly split the cabinet on whether to immediately order the settlement by Jews in Hebron, the second largest Arab town in the occupied West Bank of Jordan, in a defiant response to the unanimous U.N. vote condemning Israel's settlement policy.

Mr. Begin proposed postponing a decision on Hebron until the next cabinet session, and the government emerged united on a statement reasserting Israel's "inalienable right" to settle in the West Bank and rejecting any differentiation between Jewish West Jerusalem and the Arab sector occupied in 1967.

The statement said: "The support of the representative of the United States for the repugnant resolution of the Security Council gives rise to deep resentment and sharp protest among the people of Israel."

In Washington, Mr. James Zogby, executive director of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign, said he did not believe Pres-

ident Carter's explanation and he accused the president of "cowering... in the face of Israeli pressure." The resolution included a section devoted to the occupation of Jerusalem with references to the city in other provisions. Mr. McHenry said the error involved his vote for the resolution after a provision dealing with occupied Jerusalem was deleted but other references remained.

The ambassador called the error "unfortunate" and "a communications foul-up along the line." Asked whether President Carter's statement resulted from political pressure, Mr. McHenry paused a long while, then said: "I was not pressured."

He claimed that the main point of the resolution was to object to Israeli settlements in an "advisory" and "non-binding" way and said this "is being lost" in the controversy over occupied Jerusalem. In his statement, President Carter said: "While our opposition to the establishment of the Israeli settlements is longstanding and well known, we made strenuous efforts to eliminate the language with reference to the dismantling of settlements in the resolution."

"This call for dismantling was neither proper nor practical. We believe that the future disposition of existing settlements must be determined during the current autonomy negotiations."

Nonetheless, reporters were told the administration was willing to accept the resolution's language on dismantling because it wanted to send Israel a strong signal of U.S. dissatisfaction with Israeli settlement policies.

The same officials emphasised, however, that the United States never intended to accept any reference to occupied Jerusalem that equated its status with that of occupied Arab territories on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

The resolution, passed 15-0 last Saturday, repeatedly refers to "Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) — The U.N. Security Council's unanimous resolution condemning Israel's settlement policies is "binding to all countries and contains the decisive expression of the will of the international community, regardless of its form and details," a Jordanian official source said here tonight.

"The Jordanian government expects the world community, the United Nations and all countries, jointly and individually, to cooperate in implementing the resolution which calls for halting Israeli settlement (of the occupied territories) and the dismantling of (existing) Israeli settlements throughout the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Arab Jerusalem and its environs," the source said.

He added that "the Jordanian government will continue, along with the brotherly and friendly states, its efforts at the international level in a bid to implement the United Nations Charter and United Nations resolutions which serve the cause of a just peace in the Middle East."

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Freak blizzard sweeps Jordan

By the Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN, March 4 -- Sunday's and Monday's snowstorm accompanied by strong winds that brought blizzard

conditions to high areas of the country was the worst in Jordan since 1923 when records on weather first began being kept here reliable sources said.

Amman, Irbid and Salt were badly hit, but Zarqa was spared, although some light snow fell there. In Tafleh 180 centimetres of snow fell; in Shmeisani 70 centimetres came down and at Amman airport 25 centimetres were registered. A source at the Meteorological Department told the Jordan Times this evening that information on other areas has not yet been collected.

Early Sunday, His Majesty King Hussein visited the Public Security Directorate accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf to check on rescue operations under way to reopen the roads and help people in distress.

At last ten people died and twenty houses caved in under the weight of the snow or as a result of landslides throughout the kingdom. Minister of the Interior Ali Al Bashir said today.

Three children drowned in Irbid and a fourth is missing, three more drowned in the south, two were electrocuted by snapped power cables and two more died of exposure in Amman.

Al Bashir hospital reported tonight that a man bled to death after slipping on ice and hitting his head on the ground. The man died from loss of blood just as he was brought to the hospital. The hospital also reported that it has admitted four people in critical condition who are suffering from exposure. But mostly the hospital has been busy with mending fractured hands, arms and legs as a result of people falling on slippery pavement.

Similarly the University of Jordan Hospital has been mending many broken bones. But in a more serious case, a little girl was admitted with an eye injury after being hit in the face with a snowball. Doctors say her condition is not critical and she should be released soon. However, in another case a man has suffered severe damage to his spinal cord following a three-metre fall in his yard while trying to repair a broken power line to his house.

Civil Defence Landrovers brought women going into labour to Khalidi Hospital, Jordan's largest maternity hospital, the head matron told the Jordan Times. She added that no untimely incidents had occurred, but noted that the number of deliveries during the two storm days were double what is normal. "I think women were worried that they wouldn't get to the hospital in time and that their concern hastened their labour," one woman's doctor, braving the blizzards early Sunday morning, walked to the hospital to deliver her baby.

Informed observers said at least six serious car accidents had occurred between last night and this evening. Sources at the police, though, told the Jordan Times that no tabulation had yet been made of the number of accidents.

Several outlying areas of the capital were completely isolated for almost six hours. Communities in such areas went largely without electricity or heat, as central heating broke down when the electricity was cut Sunday morning. Repair crews could not reach them until the side roads were finally cleared by Tuesday noon.

Water froze in the pipes and some families ran out of food. For many in these areas, the only link with the outside world was the telephone.

People living in Shmeisani and close to the centre of town were much more fortunate, as their electricity was restored by Sunday noon and the main roads were cleared on Monday.

The Public Security Directorate announced this evening that all roads linking towns in Jordan were reopened for traffic except for the roads from Karak-Tafleh-Rahsadiya, in southern Jordan and Banayyat-Marj Al Hamam-Ras Al Ain.

The directorate said work to open these roads was continuing. It warned motorists to drive with extreme care on slippery roads.

The snowstorm with gale-force winds knocked out electricity in many areas of Amman and other nearby cities. In some cases large areas here were blacked out because high tension poles supporting main power lines were snapped, a source from Jordan Electricity company said. In other cases, falling trees broke power lines to whole blocks and individual houses.

"Several areas across town were cut off for two and a half days because of broken main power lines and falling trees that snapped lines running from houses to poles," the source said. "But by today we had restored all major faults, so we are now just working on the broken lines to individual houses," he said.

In the last three days the electricity company has received "many more than a thousand calls for emergency help." On a normal day the company receives about 25 calls. The entire staff of the company, about 600 people, were called into active duty for the last three days and have worked until midnight each day to repair lines. The source said power to nearby cities has been fully restored. Work on repairing cables linking Amman with other towns was going on in cooperation with the armed forces, he said.

Despite high velocity winds on Sunday, a source at the German embassy said, one of the embassy employees skied to work. The source added that with the exception of mountain areas, he had never seen anything in Germany equalling this snowstorm.

Employees of the radio station were taken to work, up through today, by the military in armoured personnel carriers. The hazardous trips took up to an hour and a half, one employee said, still nursing bruises from the uncomfortable ride. On Sunday morning, interference occurred with the frequency of the Radio Jordan Arabic station, so it broadcast over the frequency usually reserved for English broadcasts. The popular morning phone-in programme extended all day. In between upbeat songs, people from as far away as Irbid called in to register complaints and describe conditions.

English programming was switched to the as yet experimental FM station. Said one employee working for it: "It was a one-man show -- I translated the news, edited it and announced it by myself." As of this evening, Arabic was still being broadcast over the English frequency while English was limited to the FM station.

At the television station, enough personnel showed up Sunday to man only the Arabic channel, although news was given in both French and Hebrew. Broadcasting ended more than an hour early, that evening, but was back to normal on Monday, when the English channel resumed broadcasting.

Amman airport was not spared from the effects of the snowstorm. All flights Sunday were cancelled and the airport was closed until Monday at 3 p.m. The first plane to use the cleared runway was on a flight from Baghdad and arrived at 3:30 p.m. Some 15 centimetres of snow fell on the runway, and it took airport crews five hours Monday to plough it off the 11,500-foot runway and adjoining taxi ways. Just as the crews were nearly finished they got a helping hand from the Ministry of Public Works which brought in more heavy equipment.

The airport is not well equipped to handle such heavy snow because it is so rare. An airport official said the only other times the airport was hit by so much snow was in 1973 and in 1967. Passengers on flights that were missed on Sunday and part of Monday were grouped with other flights either last night or today. But the official said all is now back to normal.

Nearly five per cent of the telephone lines in Amman broke down, making the total number 1,858. According to the Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation, Mr. Mohammad Shahed Ismail, technical teams are working round the clock to fix the telephone lines inside Amman and those in other towns. He added that international telephone links were disrupted only for two hours, and that telephone links between Amman and other Jordanian towns were now operational.

A team of 50 engineers and workers from Amman municipality have been working round the clock in three shifts to clear Amman's roads of snow, the mayor of Amman, Mr. Isam Ajlouni, told the Jordan Times this morning.

Schools closed until Saturday

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) -- All schools in the country will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6 and will reopen on Saturday March 8, according to an announcement issued by the Ministry of Education today. All faculties at the University of Jordan will reopen on Saturday, after having been closed since Sunday due to the snowstorm. Yarmouk University, however, reopened today. University sources said women living in the University of Jordan dormitories have been supplied with food during the storm.

Mr. Ajlouni, who has been out himself at all hours of the day and night since Sunday, said that all main roads of the capital are now open and work is going ahead on opening the side streets. Priority is being given to clearing those streets where trees have fallen and caused damage to electricity and telephone cables.

The municipality is coordinating repair work by other government agencies involved such as the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Telecommunications Corporation. The municipality's snow clearance team went to work on the roads on Sunday using seven earth moving machines. They reached the outlying areas of the city yesterday the mayor said, including areas strictly speaking beyond the municipality's control such as the Hussein Medical City, Wadi Seer and Jbeiha. Despite the unusually heavy snow that fell in Amman on Saturday night and Sunday, (similar, the Mayor remembers, to the amount that fell back in 1964) there have not been as many problems as one might expect, largely due to the spirit of cooperation people have shown.

This has been particularly true in the poorer, more densely populated parts of town where, despite lack of basic amenities such as electricity, the inhabitants, due to their close proximity to friends and relatives, were able to help each other. Those living in more sparsely populated areas in the west of town suffered more, the mayor observed, not only because more snow fell, but because they are physically isolated. Thus when electricity failed, for instance, there were no neighbours to turn to.

A number of cases of roofs falling in were reported to the municipality and teams sent by Land-rovers to help with moving the families concerned to safety. These incidents occurred in Qat'a, Jabal Jofah, Jabal Taj and Jabal Ashrafieh. No rescue operations were carried out by air.

Now that snow is rapidly thawing the next headache is the fear of flooding. The valleys in the central part of Amman, Wadi Haddad, Mahatta and Ras Al Ain are most threatened but although a torrent of melted snow is cascading down such gullies as Ashrafieh, the situation is under control, the mayor said. Fortunately there have been no fresh falls of snow or rain to exacerbate the problem.

The West Bank was also hard hit by the heavy snow. One Jerusalem hospital reported that it had treated some 65 people for broken bones, fractures and other injuries caused by icy conditions.

Meanwhile, a water commissioner reported that the main reservoir for Lake Tiberias (the Sea of Galilee) has reached near flood level. If water continues to flow into the lake at the present rate, he said, a dam will have to be opened to increase the fall into the Jordan River to the south of the lake.

Dr. Munther Haddadin, senior Vice President of the Jordan Valley Authority, said today that in the last two days, 13 million cubic metres of water have been released through the spillway gates of the King Talal Dam.

The dam, which holds 56 million cubic metres, has been full since the first major storm of the season at the end of November. With the rapid thaw of the snow and the water which is flowing into the dam via the Zarqa River (which emanates in Amman), the largest amount of floodwater has yet to flow into the dam.

The flood waters from the hilly areas have yet to affect farms and villages in the Jordan Valley. However, the rains which immediately preceded the snow caused damage, primarily to buildings and roads, in Wadi Yabis in the north, Dr. Haddadin said. The East Ghor Main Canal also suffered minor damage from falling rocks and debris.

Soviet Muslims arrive

AMMAN, March 4 (JT) -- A delegation representing the Muslim community in the Soviet Union arrived here today for a visit to Jordan to last several days. During the visit the delegation will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs on means of bolstering religious cooperation, and will hold an exhibition of Muslim books in Amman. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Sharif met this evening with the delegation. They discussed issues pertaining to strengthening cultural and religious ties between the Soviet Union and Jordan. Mr. Sharif told JNA the conference will discuss Islamic affairs and the drawing-up of an Islamic charter.

American church delegation meets Hussein, Kamel Sharif

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) -- His Majesty King Hussein received at the royal court yesterday a delegation representing the United States National Council of Churches (NCC). King Hussein explained to the delegation the grave situation in the Middle East due to the continued occupation of Arab lands since 1967, and Israel's insistence on denying the Palestinians the right to self determination.

The King also briefed the delegation on Israel's measures to change the character of the occupied Arab territories, particularly in Jerusalem, its creation of settlements on expropriated Arab land and its defiance of the will of the international community.

The NCC delegation, which is visiting Jordan as part of a fact-finding tour of the Middle East,



His Majesty King Hussein poses with the delegation from America's National Council of Churches

met today with the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mr. Kamel Sharif. Mr. Sharif briefed

them on Israeli practices in Islamic and Christian sanctuaries. He said the only solution lies in returning Jerusalem to the Arab people in order to restore to the Holy City its international spiritual role as the city of peace, fraternity and faith.

Qasem returns from special Arab League Council meet

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem returned to Amman today after participating in an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council called to deal with Libyan and Tunisian complaints about the recent events in the Tunisian town of Gafsa.

Mr. Qasem said the Jordanian delegation played a leading role in efforts to reconcile the two neighbouring states, and helped formulating a resolution acceptable to both countries.

Describing the meeting as successful, Mr. Qasem said the Arab delegations formed a joint committee to explore possibilities of reconciliation so that relations between Libya and Tunisia could soon return to normal.



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan talks with Iraqi Vice President Izzat Ibrahim

Hassan confers with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD, March 4 (JT) -- His Highness Prince Hassan met here yesterday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and reiterated Jordan's support for President Hussein's proposed Arab national charter announced last month. The charter opposes the use of force in resolving inter-Arab differences and the presence of foreign troops or bases on Arab soil.

During the meeting Prince Hassan reviewed with the Iraqi President current Arab affairs and means of further bolstering Jordanian-Iraqi ties. He also conferred with Iraq's Vice President Izzat Ibrahim.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by an official Jordanian delegation, arrived in Baghdad Sunday after visits to Kuwait and Qatar, where he had talks with the two countries' leaders.

Prince Hassan visited this afternoon the city of Najaf, where he paid a visit to the tomb of Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib and performed a prayer there. He was accompanied by the governor of Najaf and top officials in the governorate.

Prince Hassan also visited the



Coffeur Munir Musharbash, owner of **MUNIR BEAUTY SHOP**, welcomes visits from ladies of the foreign community to his shop after his return from training courses in cosmetics and hairdressing in the United States during which he got acquainted with French, European and American styles at specialised institutes. While welcoming foreign ladies, we also welcome our other customers.

Location: Jabal Luweibdeh, Shar'a Street, Munir Beauty Shop

Jordan River bridges closed

AMMAN, March 4 (JNA) -- The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across the Jordan River are closed to travellers to and from the West Bank of Jordan due to the rising level of the river, a spokesman for the Public Security Directorate announced today. He said the reopening of the bridges will be announced when the water has subsided.

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After the gold rush: Speculators feel the pinch of plunging prices

NOTE: The day issue of the Jordan Times is not distributed on Sunday because of the We are therefore in that issue the following is the first of articles.

Amman Staff Reporter

March 4 -- As the price of gold has fallen sharply, goldsmiths in Amman, as one of the Jordan Times, are finding that the price will

was a grim month for goldsmiths who had bought individuals at over \$850 a day the end of January.

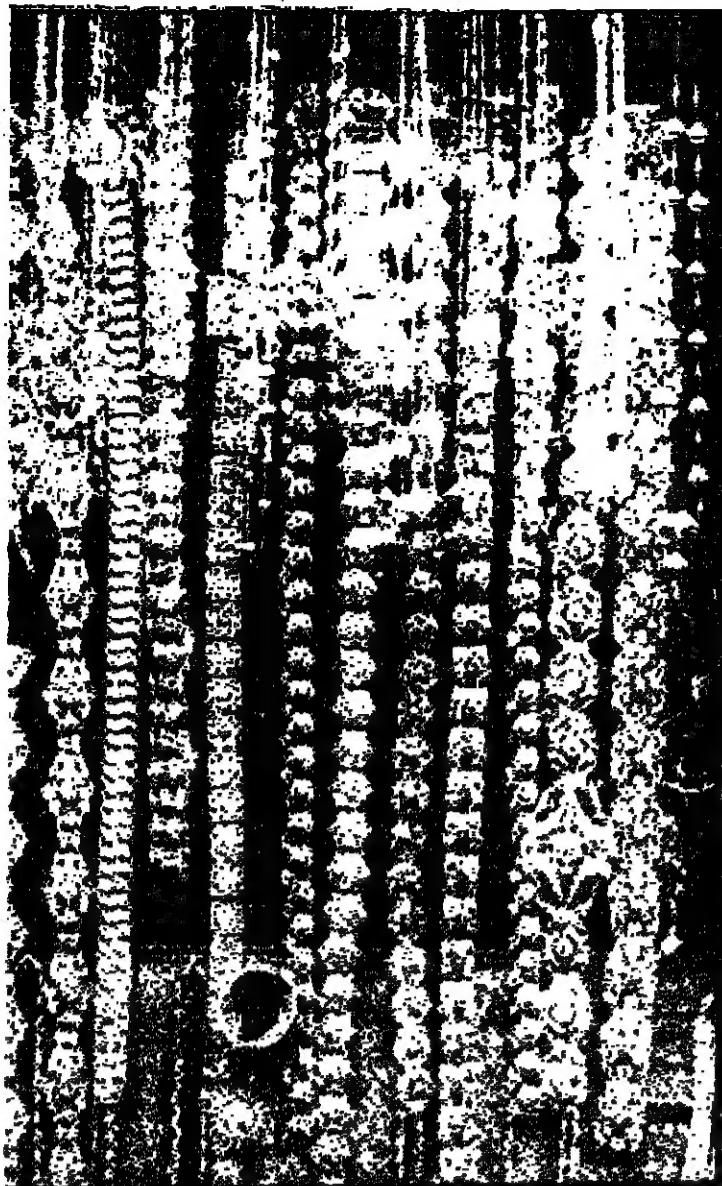
the cash I had to buy goldsmith continued, seller, who said that period he neither gold scrap gold, added: here at the sug here monstration -- people to sell their gold and were competing with to buy.

June gold was priced 250 an ounce. With a rally and economies in a certainty and instance of gold shot up, a record of \$440 an ounce in October and broke the \$500 an ounce and Christmas, the price of gold, commodities has also imonds, for example, per cent last year for ions over one karat, 11 per cent more in alone last January, is gone up, as has creases can be felt by in who has recently h filled or bought film (in which silver

re and history is gold that most Jordanians. For him, their attachment in an area subjected political upheaval, ed to put their trust in metal which, unlike always convertible, titude is out-of-date ordan, which enjoys il and social stability strong currency, old iger. re, as jeweller after nted out, the custom he able to obtain fast Beauty stores from their wives women demanding a on of their dowries in rance against such an tionally, one dealer have demanded one in gold. Although men, who are more d more able to take selves, are demanding hardly a married Jordan, no matter how lues not have at least gold that she received age and many have more.

reasons, thousands of men and women old to sell and cashed bits during January's rice. And many others tiths, and money as well as new entrants investment game, such wyers and even fore-

Can roulette Barakat, an investor resident of the Jordan and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Jan Times that he has tes that speculators in a total of some JD 10 up in gold bought at ounce that they can- without taking tre- ses. Speculating in I, "is like gambling," ment was echoed by well as by non-jewellers who feel that has debased their pro- Maher Shukri, head of rations at the Central one step further: g in gold," he said, "is Russian roulette." Amman's downtown gold trading goes on at a far less frenzied before. Although the d has dropped greatly, who bought jewelry metal was priced at \$35 0 an ounce, still stand ge profits. Bedouins a going from store to d the goldsmith who



Jewelry for sale in the gold sug.

will give the best price for their bracelets or rings.

One jeweller explained: "On any given day the difference between the lowest and highest prices in the sug is about three per cent." From day-to-day, he said, a jeweller may find himself a bit short of gold and therefore buy at a higher price or find he has extra and offer to buy at a lower price.

Even if individuals are not selling, goldsmiths buy and sell among themselves to replenish stocks or to reduce surpluses. Five-kilogram bars of gold can be seen being passed from one store to another downtown.

Women above suspicion

Some stores will buy only from women or from men who can produce a certificate guaranteeing that they bought the gold. One storeowner, who was routinely turning away all men, said: "You never know, they may have stolen jewelry from their mothers or sisters. I don't want any trouble from the police for buying stolen goods." Women are considered above suspicion.

Other storeowners are less particular. One was willing to buy from all comers -- from old bearded bedouin men selling bracelets, from adolescent boys bearing rings and even, in one case, from two Iranian men selling minted gold coins with the former Shah and his father depicted on them.

In some shops, guns are discreetly hidden under the counters. To appraise an item of gold jewelry, the jeweller rubs the piece across a small black stone and then tests the trace that has been scraped off with acids to determine whether the metal is 14, 18 or 21 karat (K). Little of the gold here is 14 K or below because, it was explained, most stores stopped stocking it about five years ago since the lower quality gold did not sell well among Jordanians.

The jeweller then weighs the coin or piece of jewelry. If the seller accepts, JD 20 notes flit over the counter and the exchange is quickly accomplished. Numismatic value is taken into account in determining the price of coins, and jewellers seemed well-informed as to their worth. Coins are set aside and saved, whereas most of the jewelry will be melted down into gold bars or reformed into new pieces of jewelry. The occasional very good piece may end up in the store window to be resold.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	298.00/300.00
U.K. sterling	673.50/677.50
West German mark	167.40/168.40
Swiss franc	174.30/175.40
French franc	71.40/71.80
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	36.10/36.30
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	118.40/119.10
Dutch guilder	152.20/153.10
Belgian franc	103.20/103.80
Swedish crown	70.60/71.00

here, gold was smuggled back out of the country for sale in Lebanon or Europe, where the market is greater than the limited one in Jordan.

Speculation exploits poor

Dr. Shukri said that the bank had issued the stringently worded warning to the money changers mostly as an anti-speculative measure. "Speculation hits poor people," he said. "They are exploited." He explained that when jewelry is bought, up to 25 per cent of the price, and sometimes more, is for craftsmanship.

This value added, he said, disappears when the jewelry is sold for its gold content. To meet future demand for jewelry, the country will have to "reimport" gold at higher prices (some having leaked out of the country through money changers smuggling), resulting in a net loss to the country.

The Central Bank was secondarily worried about the money changers "monetising in gold." Dr. Shukri said that "in view of the rigidity of the supply structure here," the Central Bank was concerned that the cashing in on gold would "increase the money supply and aggregate demand" and therefore be inflationary.

Money changers have the right to buy and sell gold only if they have specific authorisation from the Central Bank -- which none has. Goldsmiths, however, are authorised to buy and sell the rare metal. The Central Bank decides on a case-to-case basis whether they can import and export it. Last month in view of the heightened demand for gold, goldsmiths asked the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank for permission to import gold bullion against the export of gold scrap jewelry that cannot be reformed.

The point of the request, a Central Bank official said, was to increase the amount of bullion for holding purposes. No official reply has been made, he said, adding that demand for an organised system of importing and exporting gold that the goldsmiths could operate in had calmed down "with the end of gold fever."

"The ball," he said, "is now in the goldsmiths' court."

It is worth noting that during the gold crisis of 1973, the Central Bank did allow goldsmiths to export the metal because, Dr. Shukri explained, "the economy was stagnant and the exporting injected liquidity into the country."

European imports

Jewellers here import either finished jewelry or 21 or 24 karat (pure) gold. The former mostly comes from Italy and is subject to a 25 per cent customs charge. It is never more than 18 K gold because the jewelry is machine worked, a process that is almost impossible to use for higher purity, softer gold. Workmanship can add up to 30 per cent to the piece over the value of the gold.

The stock in exclusive jewelry stores like Jabasini is almost entirely Italian. Salespeople in such stores seemed appalled that individuals had sold finely crafted bracelets and the like for their gold content and spoke of the recent speculation with distaste.

Almost all 21 K gold sold in Jordan is crafted by hand locally, thick twisted bracelets being a favourite design. According to one goldsmith, a four per cent customs charge is paid on the unprocessed gold, imported largely from Switzerland, and the customer pays about another five per cent for the local craftsmanship which is cruder and cheaper than fine machine work.

Recent best sellers in one jewelry store were 10-gram (about a third of an ounce) small oblong pieces of 24 K gold. A Credit Suisse stamp certifies that they contain over 99.9 per cent pure "fine gold." "I have been doing a good business selling these," the jeweller said.

Speculation improved business

This particular jeweller said that he has bought gold all along and will continue to do so regardless of price. Unlike some of his colleagues, however, he did not put all his available cash into buying gold at top prices. In the earlier days of the gold boom he made money by selling scrap jewelry at higher prices and this offset losses he made when he bought high.

While he admitted he was "hoarding" the gold he had bought at the height of the boom, waiting for the prices to surge again, he said overall speculation had been good for his business.

He explained that, traditionally, January and February are the slowest months at the gold sug -- business does not usually really pick up until May or June when the rash of summer weddings begins. A recent trip confirmed that the rare customers for jewelry were for autumnered by individuals selling gold.

"Definitely," he said, "speculation has improved the business I would otherwise have had during this time." During January he was buying three to four kilos of jewelry a day; today he is buying from 700 grams to a kilo.

Other goldsmiths were less optimistic, regretting that they had put all their cash into gold which they refuse to sell until the price rises. They are hopeful, however. One dealer predicted that the price would again break through \$800 an ounce in March and another was sure that the price would inevitably rise "in the near future" to \$1000 an ounce.

Goldsmiths are not the only ones worried about the decline in gold prices. According to Mr. Jawad Hadid, deputy general manager of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank and Mr. Amer Sali, the bank's corporate finance

manager, non-professionals have also lost heavily. Some, they said, channelled bank financing they had received for their businesses into gold purchases. Since many bought at high prices and couldn't resell without taking tremendous losses, they now find themselves severely hard pressed to pay back their loans.

The two bankers noted that anyone with a telex and an outside bank account can trade on the major international markets, notably those in New York, London and Hong Kong. Money changers and other professional investors, it is said, place their orders through Swiss banks. How much individuals in Jordan won or lost on such deals is hard to guess because their moves -- of dubious legality -- are shrouded in secrecy.

These transactions, Mr. Sali said, eventually have to be paid in dollars or other foreign currency. Legally a Jordanian can convert only JD 10,000 a year for specific purposes such as travel, education or illness. Money changers, however, are said to be willing to convert any amount, frequently circumventing the law. The dinars so converted for speculative purposes are illegally exported to pay for the purchases at a net loss to the country, although it is possible some of the profits made were repatriated.

Both bankers said that apart from the illegality of capital transfers from Jordanian banks to outside ones, they would not engage in telex gold trading on the world market because ultimately money would be "lost outside Jordan -- it would be a loss to the country."

No trust in paper

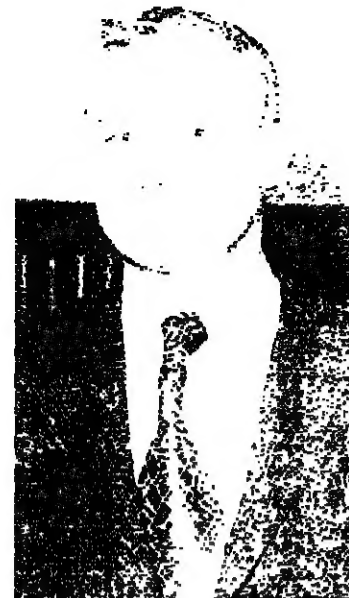
The Arab Jordan Investment Bank did consider importing gold bullion to sell to its clients as a service. However, they decided against it because in view of the four per cent customs charge they would have to pay on the gold and the corporate tax on profits, the bank could not compete in selling gold with the money changers, who largely manage to avoid paying taxes.

The only other option for a bank wanting to deal in gold is to sell gold certificates, but the bankers said this is not feasible for two reasons. First, the majority of Jordanians for cultural reasons have no faith in paper, preferring instead the physical delivery of gold. Secondly, a certificate setup would have to be arranged through a foreign bank. Paying for the gold would again entail capital transfers outside the country and thus be illegal.

Both Mr. Hadid and Mr. Sali attributed part of the speculation in gold in Jordan to the rigidity of financial structures here. Interest rates are controlled by the Central Bank, and no savings account pays more than seven per cent. With inflation running at an estimated 13 to 14 per cent, they said, an effective "negative interest rate" is in operation, prompting people

to switch to buying land, securities and gold. In January, gold offered the best promise of quick money.

Next: How the gold boom has benefited financial institutions in Jordan. See tomorrow's Jordan Times.



Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber named director of welfare fund

AMMAN, March 4 (JT) -- Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber has been named executive director of the Queen Alia Fund, the Jordan Times has learned. Dr. Abu Jaber is a former minister of industry and trade and, more recently, a former dean of the Faculty of Trade and Commerce at the University of Jordan.

The Queen Alia Fund is an independent funding agency for social welfare projects. Asked how he felt about the post, which he took up Saturday, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times: "I am very enthusiastic. During the 1970s Jordan concentrated on economic development; this decade we will concentrate on social development. Improvement in this field is much needed to help us cope with the effect of industrialisation on society."

TODAY'S WEATHER

There will be frost in the early morning with a rise in temperature expected. Winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	0	11
Aqaba	9	22
Deserts	-1	15
Jordan Valley	7	19

MEA's "CEDARS" RESERVATION SYSTEM



Starting Monday, March 3, MEA's reservation system will be fully computerised following the setting up of terminal equipment totalling 42 units. By using data processing procedures, these units will interrogate the central system and record the booking of seats. This recording is linked to the public electric grid and, in case of failure, is automatically fed by two generators owned and run by MEA. From now on, the reservation operations will be quick and simple, whether related to sectors offered by MEA or by other carriers in case of connections. Chances for error are practically eliminated. No possible omission or loss of reservation slips. No accidental overbooking. First come, first served. Air France has largely contributed to the setting up of MEA's electronic reservations system. Our picture shows MEA specialised personnel operating terminals.

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- 4) On-job instructors - machinist, metals, sheetmetal, welder, AC & Refrigeration, Layout, Fabrication.

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Italy faces soccer scandal

ROME, March 4 (AP) — Italian soccer players Tuesday reacted angrily to charges they had taken bribes to influence games in what appeared to be the biggest hoax or scandal ever to hit Italy's national pastime. Their reaction came after a state attorney on Monday opened an investigation into charges by a fruit dealer and a restaurant owner on behalf of a gambling syndicate which was said to have suffered heavy losses to illegal bookmakers.

The formal complaint, as reported in the Italian news media, named 27 players of 12 different teams, including Paolo Rossi and Bjuno Giordano, stars of the national squad. The press reported the complaint was filed after the betting syndicates cashed in only a few times on the schemes both for reported reneging by the players and because the players allegedly bribed were unable to influence the results.

All the players named have denied any connection with any betting scheme. Some said they will file a suit against the two accusers, and officials of some of the involved teams said they would back their players. "I will defend my name," said Rossi, Italy's highest paid player. "They want to ruin soccer."

The press gave the names of the accusers as Massimo Cruciani, the fruit dealer, and Alvaro Trinca, the restaurant owner. Newspaper said that Cruciani has gone into hiding because he fears for his life.

Enrico Albertosi, a former goalie of the national team and now playing for Milan, said he would file suit against the accusers. Giuseppe Wilson, captain of Layunop Goxe, said "I never received dirty money. I will sue those two men who have accused me and my companions. They did very bad business because I will get big money from damages."

Meanwhile, the Italian press gave the case wide front-page space for the second day in a row. The papers said if the accusations were proved, players allegedly involved in the case would be disqualified for life. Rome's Il Messaggero said if the accusations were right, defending champion Milan could be demoted to the second division. It referred to questions about a game between Milan and Lazio in the Italian Soccer Cup Jan. 6 won by Milan 2-1.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pakistanis vow to retain squash record

LONDON, March 4, (AP) — Jehangir Khan, world amateur squash champion from Pakistan, Tuesday sailed through his opening match in the British Open Championships at Wembley. Khan, still only 16 but making a major impact on the professional circuit, beat David Pearson of Britain 9-6, 9-4, 9-5 in just over half an hour. World no. 1 Geoff Hunt, beaten in Manchester Monday by Hiddy Jahan opens his bid for a record-equalling seventh British Open success tomorrow.

Jahan, ranked four, is keen to stop Australian Hunt from equalling the record of the great Pakistani player Hashim Khan. Jahan said: "I always play my best squash at Wembley and I hope it will be the same this time, because it will be the most important British Open of them all for us. We want to stop Hunt equalling Hashim's record. We will be trying our best to show Hunt is not unbeatable."

The British Open, sponsored by Avis, continues through March 13.

Chess journey to pick Karpov challenger

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, March 4 (AP) — The match between grandmasters Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union and Lajos Portisch of Hungary in the quarter finals of the candidates' chess

tournament will be held in Mexico City, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) announced here today. A spokesman said that the 10-game match involving a prize fund of 20,000 Swiss francs (about \$12,000), will begin on March 29.

The venues for the three other encounters in the quarter finals of the tournament, which is to produce the challenger to world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union, had been announced earlier. They are: Velden Am Voertersee, Austria, where expatriate Soviet grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi will begin his match against former countryman Tigran Petrosian on March 8, Bad Lauterberg, West Germany, where Andras Adorjan of Hungary will play West Germany's Robert Huebner beginning on March 1 and Alma Ata, USSR, where Soviet grandmasters Mikhail Tal and Lev Polugaevsky will begin play on March 9.

New records set by Poland and W. Germany

SINDELINGEN, West Germany, March 4 (AP) — Zofia Bielczyk of Poland bettered the women's world indoor record for the 60-metre hurdles with a time of 7.7 seconds to win the finals of the European Indoor Track and Field Championships. The previous record of 7.84 was held by Poland's Gracyna Rabszty. She finished second in the finals with a clocking of 7.89.

Christian Haas of West Germany set a new European record for the men's 60-metre dash in 6.55 seconds, taking the mark from Poland's Marian Woronin who had a previous best of 6.57.

Economic Briefs

World auto market viewed promising

DETROIT, Michigan, March 4 (AP)—Promising new markets with potential sales of "enormous magnitude" are about to open for the world auto industry, says American Motors Corp. Chairman Gerald Meyers. Meyers, in a speech prepared for delivery to the World Affairs Council of Northern California and released in Detroit, said that while a country such as Japan has one car for every four people, India has less than two cars per thousand population. Meyers also noted that China has just 37,000 cars, but has a population of 1 billion people.

"The message here, is that the world auto industry is just getting started," he said. "This is a potential auto market that defies the imagination." The auto industry is spending U.S. \$80 billion to meet the changing needs of the 1980's, Meyers said. And because of the tremendous cost, he predicted, "only about a dozen" of the 30 or more independent auto producers now in business, would survive by the end of the century.

He said the basic characteristics and size of passenger cars around the world are becoming more similar as fuel prices increase. And Meyers, noting AMC's recent affiliation with the French automaker Renault, said the trend suggests the formation of world car companies.

Prime rates rise to a new record

NEW YORK, March 4 (AP)—Chase Manhattan Bank raised its prime lending rate today to a record 17.25 per cent, continuing the rapid rise in U.S. interest rates following new efforts to tighten credit. Chase Manhattan, the third-largest commercial bank in the United States, said that the demand for loans was "very strong" even at a prime rate of 16.75 per cent, which was adopted only last Friday by major American banks. Chase also cited the spiral in other interest rates, which has pushed rates on home mortgages and money market certificates to record levels. The prime lending rate, which banks charge on loans to their most credit-worthy corporate customers, has now risen two percentage points since Feb. 15, when the U.S. Federal Reserve made its latest move to tighten credit.

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Mugabe scores landslide win in Rhodesia election

SALISBURY, Rhodesia, March 4 (AP)—British Governor Lord Soames asked Mr. Robert Mugabe to form a government today, after results of last week's election showed Mr. Mugabe won a landslide victory.

Mr. Mugabe, whose party won 57 of 80 seats allotted for blacks, and Lord Soames agreed upon the need for stability, reconciliation and peace, British sources said.

Arrangements for the transitional period were discussed and Lord Soames assured Mr. Mugabe of British willingness to do everything to ease the transition and to build an enduring relationship with an independent Zimbabwe, the African name for Rhodesia, British sources said.

Mr. Mugabe, 55, who has survived two assassination attempts since he returned to Salisbury last month, told reporters in the heavily guarded garden of his suburban home that he would seek to absorb other parties including his old foe, former prime minister Ian Smith. Mr. Mugabe also said he would invite his former ally, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, to join in a coalition government.

Mr. Nkomo, addressing the news conference, said he had not received an invitation but welcomed the idea of an alliance that would give the two parties a powerful 77 seats in the 100-seat national assembly.

"The main thing we have to look at is that Zimbabwe becomes a stable state. All groups have got

to accept that Zimbabwe is independent and contribute to the stability," Mr. Nkomo said.

Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) captured 57 seats, Mr. Nkomo, 20. Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa a surprisingly meagre three, and Mr. Smith's Rhodesian Front party at earlier elections snared all 20 white seats.

The elections, judged reasonably free and fair by international observers, were a prelude to independence later this month for Britain's last African colony.

The new government is expected to win recognition from countries that cut diplomatic ties with Mr. Smith's government and refused to acknowledge the first black prime minister, Bishop Muzorewa, chosen in elections last April which were boycotted by the guerrillas.

Hundreds of blacks listening to radios and watching television demonstrated in the streets of Salisbury after the results were announced by elections registrar-general Mr. Eric Pope-Simmonds.

Whites, rulers for 90 years previously, reacted with shock, anger or resignation to the news that

their chief enemy would soon be their leader.

Many interviewed in the streets said they would join the 1,200 a month who were fleeing the country.

"It's incredible that (Mr. Mugabe) won with the ballot what he didn't win with the bullet," a Western diplomat said, reiterating that most observers expected Mr. Mugabe to capture no more than 40 seats.

Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo, under the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance, led separate armies in the seven-year war, which cost 22,000 lives, to gain control of Rhodesia.

Meanwhile in London, right-wing Conservative Party legislators voiced alarm today at Mr. Mugabe's sweeping success in Rhodesia's elections and warned it gives the Soviet Union a launching pad "to promote guerrilla activities in South Africa."

Mr. Mugabe's victory effectively dashed right-wing British hopes that a split black vote would compel his wing of the Patriotic Front to accept a moderating coalition.

Many Conservative moderates as well as rightwingers privately blamed Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, architect of the December peace pact, for Mr. Mugabe's emergence as Rhodesia's first legally-elected black prime minister-designate.

Tory lawmakers were hesitant to air their views publicly in the interest of party unity, but they were especially critical of Lord Carrington for Bishop Muzorewa's weak showing.

Mr. Michael Brotherton, a Tory MP, said: "I imagine that this morning Bishop Muzorewa feels a disillusioned and betrayed man."

"This election will prove to be a disaster in the long-term and the primary cause of this is our failure to recognise the bishop's government last year."

But former foreign secretary David Owen, a Labourite who long has supported the guerrillas, aims if not their methods, welcomed Mr. Mugabe's victory and the "clear decision" produced by the election.

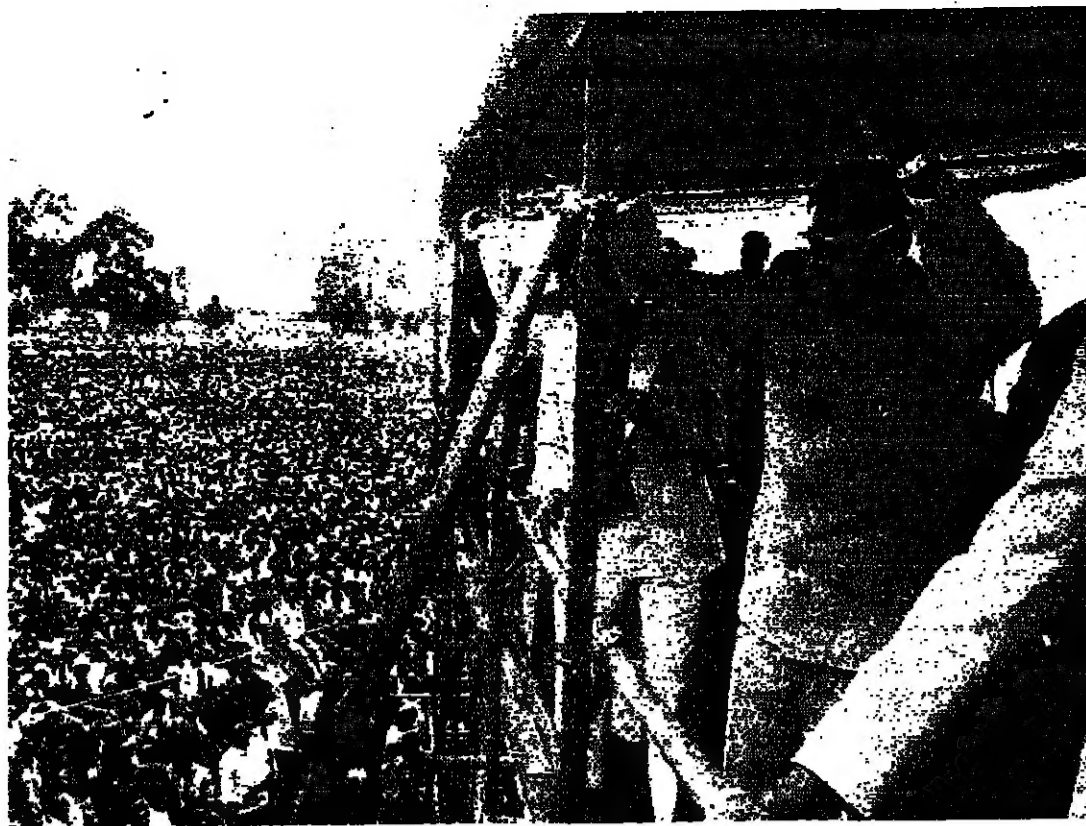
"It shows beyond any shadow of doubt that the Zimbabwe people support the Patriotic Front... I think Britain has avoided perhaps one of the worst foreign policy mistakes since Suez by not recognising the Bishop Muzorewa government."

Government ministers braced themselves to see how Mr. Mugabe responds now that he has legitimate political power.

His overall majority neutralises the 20 seats allocated to whites, which could have formed a critical bloc if Mr. Mugabe had been in a minority.

An early key issue for the new Rhodesian Government will be land distribution. This, more than anything, could provoke an exodus of Rhodesia's estimated 230,000 whites.

Land was the issue that almost broke the London conference and Mr. Mugabe will have to move soon to satisfy his supporters.



Rhodesia's premier-designate Robert Mugabe pictured with thousands of supporters at recent Salisbury rally. (Gamma photo)

Massachusetts presidential primary expected to draw up to 1.5m voters

BOSTON, Massachusetts, March 4 (Agencies) — Massachusetts Democrats voted today in a presidential primary election which Senator Edward Kennedy, on home ground, said he would win over President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. George Bush and a resurgent Mr. Ronald Reagan competed for top spot in a crowded Republican field.

The first polls opened shortly after sunrise in an election that awards 111 votes for the Democratic presidential nomination and 42 Republican nominating votes. So far, Mr. Carter has won 55 delegates, Mr. Kennedy 36. It will take 1,666 to win the Democratic nomination.

As many as 1.5 million voters were expected to cast ballots in the first of the big state presidential campaign tests.

Mr. Kennedy was in a primary he had to win. "I'm confident I will win," he said on election eve in the state that has four times elected him to the Senate.

Mr. Carter's campaign chairman, Mr. David Flynn, said Mr. Kennedy would have to roll up a landslide of 75 per cent or better to gain a real comeback in his challenge to Mr. Carter's re-nomination.

"A win is a win," Mr. Kennedy said.

He needs one after four losses to Mr. Carter, two of them in nearby New England states. In earlier contests, the candidates have shed from victory forecasts, the better to explain away defeats. But for Mr. Kennedy, there was no point in hedging about Massachusetts, for his campaign could not survive an upset at home.

Mr. Kennedy recently dismissed half his campaign staff and launched a million-dollar advertising drive to improve his chances for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The cost-cutting and advertising decision marked a major effort by Mr. Kennedy to recover from his devastating defeat by Mr. Carter in last Tuesday's New

Hampshire primary.

The Kennedy camp has reduced paid staff from about 200 to fewer than 100 to save money. Reinforcements are being sent to several key primary states and huge amounts of money are being switched into special advertising.

A request has been made for half an hour of prime television time on each of the three major U.S. networks within the next five weeks. The networks, however, have been reluctant to sell such

major exposure to political candidates.

For Mr. Bush, the former U.N. ambassador contending for the Republican nomination, Massachusetts is almost as critical a battle as it is for Mr. Kennedy.

His worried campaign aides acknowledge that he must quickly take some of the bloom off Mr. Reagan's landslide New Hampshire primary victory or risk finding himself flattened by a Reagan steamroller.

North, South Korea 'somewhat closer' to rapprochement talks

PANMUNJOM, Korea, March 4 (AP) — North and South Korea "moved somewhat closer" today to proposed rapprochement talks between their premiers as the North eased its position on the key issues of place and agenda.

North and South Korean negotiators met for several hours, mostly behind closed doors. The South's spokesman said Pyongyang made a compromise proposal that the premiers' meeting be held in this truce village.

The North had insisted until near the end of today's session, the third since Feb. 6, that the meetings be held alternatively in Pyongyang and Seoul. Seoul insisted on choosing a third country as the site.

The Seoul spokesman said the North's chief delegate, Mr. Hyong Jun-guk, also said that his side was ready to consider South Korea's request that the agenda be set by the current working level negotiators prior to the premiers' meeting to ensure efficient talks between the two premiers.

The spokesman, Mr. Lee Dong-bok, who was on the three-member Seoul delegation, said chief Seoul delegate Mr. Kim Young-choo promised to reply at

the next session March 18 on the North's proposal to meet at Panmunjom.

Mr. Lee implied the South might accept Panmunjom as the site, saying there "is a good chance for the resolution of the venue question at the coming session."

However, Mr. Lee was non-committal when asked if the South was ready to drop its third country idea at the next session. One source close to the Seoul delegation said Seoul would not necessarily insist on a third country.

The current series of inter-Korean contacts, first in a year, started after North Korean Premier Li Jong-ok proposed the first-ever premiers' meeting in a letter Jan. 11 to South Korean Prime Minister Shin Hyon-hwack.

Seoul says gradual exchanges, starting with the postal, cultural or sports fields would be desirable to help ease tension between the two Korean rivals before tackling the big task of national unification.

Pyeongyang has advocated a Korean reunification in one big stride on the ground that Korean brotherhood could overcome ideological and other differences.

World News Briefs

ROME, March 4 (AP)—Striking in early-morning raids in fashionable neighbourhoods throughout Italy, police squads arrested 10 bank presidents and other prominent businessmen today and charged them with participating in a nationwide loan scandal. Police and court sources said many of the bankers were surprised in their homes as early as six a.m. and carted off to jail. The arrests were ordered by Rome Judge Antonio Alibrandi, who issued a total of warrants for embezzlement and related charges. It was not immediately clear when the remaining 11 arrests would be made. The accused include top executives or former officials of a large number of savings banks, including those in Milan, Florence, Genoa, Bologna, and Palermo. The charges are related to loans that were allegedly made between 1970 and 1977 in violation of rules fixed for Italian savings banks. Basically, the bankers were accused of loaning money to personal friends or political allies without obtaining adequate guarantees that the borrower would be able to repay the funds.

GENEVA, March 4 (R)—The United States, Soviet Union and Britain are discussing how and when to make a full statement on their private negotiations to ban all nuclear testing, the 40-nation Disarmament Committee was told today. The British delegation, speaking on behalf of the three powers, said it was aware of the world community's interest and concern in the negotiations, begun in 1977 but apparently deadlocked over the question of how to ensure observance of an all-round ban. "Given the delicate nature of the negotiations, we are discussing how to make as full a statement as possible," British delegate Noel Marshall said. But a group of 21 non-aligned states said in a statement the three powers were dealing with matters of life and death and the world was entitled to a full briefing on the obstacles to a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The three powers in 1963 signed a partial-test ban treaty that outlawed all blasts except those underground. However, Sweden has told the committee it registered a total of 421 nuclear test blasts during the 1970s.

MADRID, March 4 (AP) — A national court today sentenced three Franco extremists to prison terms totalling 459 years for killing five communist lawyers in a Madrid law office three years ago. The conviction and sentencing of the Francoists was the first since the Spanish civil war ended in 1939. It was expected to ignite violent protest from rightists. The five-man tribunal gave 193 years each to gunmen Jose Fernandez Cerra and Carlos Garcia Julia and 73 years in prison to Francisco Albadalejo, a former Franco transport union official accused of planning the killing. It also convicted gun supplier Leopoldo Jimenez and gave him four years. The court sentenced Mr. Fernandez Cerra's girlfriend Gloria Huerquedas one year for helping to cover up the crime. The sentences, to be served concurrently with a maximum of 30 years, were three times what the state prosecutor asked and only slightly less for the three principals than was demanded by private lawyers prosecuting for the families of the five slain victims. The defence had asked acquittal or amnesty for the five, accused in the Jan. 24, 1977 slayings four months before Premier Adolfo Suarez legalised the Communist Party.

AMSTERDAM, March 4 (AP)—Some 150,000 Dutch workers staged a 24-hour strike yesterday to protest a request by Prime Minister Andries van Agt's centre-right coalition cabinet for more control over wages. The walkout was called by the 1.3 million member FNV, the Netherlands' largest labour federation. A federation spokesman said the strikes affected all sectors of industry and public service. More than 200,000 other workers joined in a sympathy work stoppage lasting from one to five hours, the spokesman said. Public transportation in major cities ground to a halt, mail delivery has been slowed and several newspapers came out in smaller editions or failed to appear at all because of the graphics union walkout. FNV leaders have threatened to prolong the strike if parliament, which is scheduled to debate the government's wage policy later today, agrees to Mr. van Agt's request to extend the wage freeze.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 4 (AP)—The 100,000th Vietnamese refugee from Malaysia to be permanently resettled in a third country left today. Mr. Tran Thanh Vien, 36, left by plane with his 7-year-old son for New Zealand. There are about 28,000 Vietnamese refugees left in Malaysia. Of the 100,000 who have left, about 60,000 were taken by the United States. The first came here in 1975 after the communist takeover in Vietnam.

NEW YORK, March 4 (AP)—Florida's \$2 billion industry was spared another hard freeze that was expected today and officials said, they don't expect the cost of citrus fruits go up much after all. Elsewhere in the southern United States, residents dug out from under record snow and hoped for warmer weather. The storm, roaring in from the midwest over the weekend, dumped more than 30 centimetres of snow in Virginia and up to 76 centimetres in North Carolina. It was blamed for at least 36 deaths in ten states. In Florida, blossoms of next year's orange crop turned black in the record-low temperatures that hit the citrus area. Valencia oranges, about 85 million boxes ready to be harvested for frozen concentrated orange juice, froze on the trees in minus six centigrade temperatures Sunday and yesterday.

'Spy war' between Poland, Sweden

By Brian Mooney

WARSAW--Poland and Sweden are engaged in a "spy war" which has cast a cold shadow over relations between the two neighbouring Baltic states.

The dispute, which neither side appears to want and neither seems capable of stopping, has peeled away the spirit of idealism in which the two nations signed a friendship declaration and non-visa immigration agreement five years ago and has left officials in Warsaw and Stockholm wondering what went wrong.

The answer is in part a study of how the two nations, though closely linked by geography, history and culture, are learning that it takes more than idealism to surmount the very basic political and ideological barriers which divide them.

The halcyon days after former Swedish premier Olof Palme signed the accords with Polish Communist leader Edward Gierek in the spirit of the 1975 Helsinki talks have given way to a mood of disappointment and distrust.

There is a feeling in Warsaw that the political will in Stockholm to pursue good relations with communist Poland has been replaced by indifference since Mr. Palme left office in 1976.

"After the honeymoon, we had to get down to dealing with some of the reality, we've both come down with a big bump," a Swedish diplomat in Warsaw explained.

In the latest incident, Poland and Sweden fired diplomatic salvos across the Baltic by expelling a consul from each country.

Sweden moved first, ordering Polish Consul Stanislaw Kwiecinski to leave Malmö after police announced they had established evidence that he accepted intelligence material from two women recently charged with espionage.

Poland, adopting its routine policy of reciprocating in such cases, expelled Sweden's consul in the northern port of Szczecin a few days later.

An official Polish statement said Swedish Consul Kjell Rickardsson had engaged in activities which went beyond his consular rights and duties -- a thinly veiled accusation of spying.

Charges and counter charges of espionage began last summer with the expulsion from Stockholm of two Polish diplomats. Warsaw automatically retaliated and expelled two Swedish diplomats.

Later in the year, the skippers of six Polish yachts were accused of espionage in Stockholm harbour and a group of Polish youths was rounded up in Sweden for allegedly spying on military bases.

Poland reacted with noisy indignation, accusing the Swedish secret police of launching an "anti-Polish hullabaloo," and then added grist to its propaganda mill when Sweden let the youths go because police could not substantiate charges against them.

Sweden still maintains that the youths, about 20 in all, were involved in some level of espionage, but Polish officials who refer to the more sophisticated spy network at their disposal and Poland's relative lack of interest in neutral Sweden's military insul-

lations, dismiss the charges as absurd and groundless.

Officials in Warsaw even suggested that the Swedish police, embarrassed by revelations that they had been infiltrated by Soviet agents, blew up the Polish spy scandal as a public relations exercise.

"Twenty spies in one year. They've gone spy mad in Sweden," said a senior Polish Foreign Ministry official, who is intimately acquainted with Sweden.

"The Swedish police have quite simply overreacted. Those youths were not spying on military bases," he said.

Following the summer spy spree, a Swede was arrested in Poland on charges of smuggling a copying machine into the country for alleged use by dissidents.

The man, Mr. Bjorn Laquist, was held for 49 days and then released in what Polish officials said was a signal of good will towards Stockholm.

"He only paid a fine and left our country, although his unfortunate and by no means tourist escapade could have been treated with more severity," an authoritative Polish commentary said at the time.

But Sweden says its police act independently of political considerations and cannot ignore facts -- hence the recent expulsion of the Polish consul in Malmö.

Poland, for its part, believes there are pressure groups at work in Sweden bent on sabotaging the good relations between the two countries.

Officials in Warsaw point in particular to a group of Polish emigres, many of them former senior government servants who went into exile following purges in 1968, who they consider are actively serving "anti-Polish"

interests in Sweden.

Some of these emigres have been consistently refused entry into Poland, contravening the spirit if not the letter of the 1974 non-visa agreement.

In one much publicised case, former Swedish deputy prime minister Per Ahlmark arrived in Warsaw with two of the black-listed emigres, and his party was immediately bundled out of the country on the next plane -- to Copenhagen.

Poland regarded Mr. Ahlmark's sorties in 1978 as deliberate provocation, which in one sense it clearly was, and relations have visibly deteriorated since.

"He would have been disappointed if he had been allowed into the country without any fuss. He wanted to provoke a scandal," a Polish source suggested.

The number of blacklisted Poles in Sweden -- Poland says it is less than 100 -- has inevitably soured relations between Warsaw and Stockholm and has indirectly led to at least one element in the spy war.

Sweden, a nation which prides itself as a haven for political emigres and abhors any meddling with its adopted citizens, says Poland keeps a keen eye on its former nationals there.

A recent case involving two Swedes of Polish extraction who were accused of passing information about the Polish community to the Malmö consulate illustrates the point, Swedish officials say.

It was this case which led to the expulsion of the Malmö consul. Poland, while thundering about cases involving alleged espionage on military bases, gives scant attention in the officially con-

trolled press to accusations of this type of intercommunal spying -- taken by some as an implicit admission that this activity does go on.

But Polish officials say this is not enough to justify what they call the Swedish spy mania, and they press home the argument that the 1974 non-visa agreement gives them the absolute right to refuse entry to those whom the label as dangerous anti-Polish elements.

Poland also counters that Sweden turns away more Poles from its frontiers than Poland does Swedes. Many of the Swedes rejects are turned away because they have insufficient personal funds.

This again has soured the 197 agreement, Poland says, because Polish youths initially flocked to their thousands to Sweden in the summer to earn good money on vacation work. The number work permits has dropped from an annual record of 10,000 to about 2,000 primarily because the job market in Sweden has tightened recent years.

But Swedes, however, continue to pour south in the summer search of cheap food and bargain black market prices.

There are grievances, on both sides. But trade continues north between the two countries. Poland recently landed a building contract worth three million Swedish crowns (\$750,000) to help offset a commercial balance which favoured Sweden.

And diplomatic relations, though strained, are nowhere breaking point.

REUTERS

Soviet Academy of Sciences session 'not considering' Sakharov's ejection

MOSCOW, March 4 (AP) — The Soviet Academy of Sciences, comprising 767 of the Soviet Union's top scientific specialists, began its annual three-day meeting today in Moscow.

Soviet dissident leader Andrei Sakharov, the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize winner and an academy member since 1953, had demanded permission to return to Moscow from exile in the city of Gorky to attend the session.

An academy spokesman said he did not know if Mr. Sakharov was at the meeting. But he discounted speculation by Mr. Sakharov's relatives that the 58-year-old nuclear physicist would be ejected from the academy at the session.

"The question is not under consideration," the spokesman said.

The academy, which now counts 348 full members and 519 lower-ranking, "corresponding" members, traces its roots to the Academy of Sciences and Arts founded in 1724 by the Russian czar Peter the Great.

It operates a series of the Soviet Union's most prestigious scientific institutes.

The Soviet news agency TASS said today's session was opened by Academy President Anatoly Alexandrov and was attended by Mr. Mikhail Ziminin, a secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee concerned with ideological and cultural affairs.

In Munich, Russian-born cellist Rostropovich said last night the only chance Mr. Sakharov has to

continue his work for science and human rights is to leave the Soviet Union.

"I very much suffer for Sakharov," said the world-renowned artist after a performance. "And I think there's only one possibility for him, and that's to leave Russia."

"But I don't think my government will give him permission to go out."

Mr. Rostropovich, who lost his Soviet citizenship while in the United States, said he worries that Mr. Sakharov's heart ailment will worsen because of the strain of internal exile to Gorky.

"Thousands, maybe millions of telegrams were sent to (Soviet President Leonid) Brezhnev on behalf of Sakharov," Mr. Rostropovich continued. "I know many Nobel prize people who also sent telegrams, but that didn't help."

Asked what might sway the Kremlin to allow Mr. Sakharov to leave his homeland, Mr. Rostropovich replied, "Only an appeal to God, and I appeal to God with music."

The Soviet artist said a concert he gave last week in Paris on behalf of Mr. Sakharov "was the most important concert I have ever given in my life."

Mr. Rostropovich said he enjoys artistic freedom in the West as never before.

"You can't imagine how many telegrams the cultural minister in Moscow sent saying, 'Rostropovich is sick, the concert is cancelled.' Now nobody sends telegrams that I am sick."



Soviet dissident leader Andrei Sakharov (Gamma photo)